MIDWEST COMPUTER GENEALOGISTS

NEWSLETTER

www.foxwoodsprings.org

Volume XXIII **October, 2019** **Number 10**

IMMIGRATION RECORDS RESEARCH

Midwest Computer Genealogists will meet on Saturday, October 19 in Bromwell Lounge at Brookdale Foxwood Springs in Raymore, Missouri. Our speaker will be Chelsea Clarke, Branch Manager of the Mary B. B. Croutch Genealogy Library of the Cass County Library in Harrisonville. Chelsea's topic will be "Immigration Records Research". Everyone is welcome to attend.

A graduate of the University of Missouri, Columbia, Chelsea started working at the Genealogy Branch of the Cass County Public Library in March, 2013 as a substitute library assistant. During this time, she taught classes and assisted with transcription and index projects. After two years as a sub, she was chosen to replace former Branch Manager Jackie Roberts by the library directors and Jackie, herself, who retired from the position in February, 2015.

Since then, Chelsea has been working on digitizing the collections, developing new programs and classes, and designing a series of genealogy guides on databases, ethnic group/location research, and record types. She has previously presented programs on "Native American Research", "Tracing Your British Ancestors", and "Finding Your Irish Ancestors" for MCG.

She says, 'I've presented classes on Rootsweb, Fold3, Native American research, immigration and naturalization records, and Cass County Public Library history". MCG President Al Morse says she has been extremely helpful by providing some possible avenues to travel as he tries to conquer the brick walls in his family research. Chelsea now has several new topics for presentations, and it was very difficult to make a choice about which topic we wanted this year. We are very fortunate to have such an excellent Genealogy Branch at the Cass County Library, and we appreciate the help Chelsea has given us both for MCG and for our visits to the Library in Harrisonville.

Put this date on your calendar and join us to learn about Immigration Records on October 19.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Al Morse

I have been involved in gardening most of my life. My parents, Albert Frank and Mildred Catherine (Janssens) Morse, were each raised on a farm. Their families could always have a garden. Not only did it provide food for the spring, summer, and fall times, but they would preserve or dry vegetables or fruits for the winter months.

My father's parents, Clark Frank and Alma Dona (Miller) Morse, grew up on farms in Bates County, Missouri. I remember going to their farm in the summer and eating watermelon and cantaloupe while sitting on a bench around a large tree. When they sold the farm and moved to Rich Hill, Missouri about 1950, they had a large garden. I remember seeing a large wash tub on the back porch where they were making hominy. When my mother got a job as a cook at a restaurant and later at the school, my folks sold the 2 lots that had been our garden. So we no longer had a garden. But we could go to my grandparents and get some fresh vegetables.

In reading some history from the *History of Cass and Bates Counties,* Missouri, written in 1833, I found an interesting story about my 3rd great grandfather, Thomas Woodfin. He, his wife, Sarah, and their children and grandchildren moved from North Carolina to Johnson County, Missouri in 1836. A quote on page 954 says "The old man did nothing but hunt and hoe his tobacco patch". So, crops and

gardening were important and necessary to the family.

On one of the hunting trips, he and his sons liked Bates County, Missouri, south of the Marais des Cygnes River and near Walnut Creek, which was in Walnut Township. One of his sons, John, and his wife, Hannah (Hiatt), moved their family to this location in 1840. They are my great-great grandparents. All of the other Woodfin children and their families moved to the state of Oregon. John purchased nearly 1000 acres of land.

When Dorothy and I bought a house in Independence, Missouri in 1965, there was a large back yard. We put in a small garden. We also put in 2 grape vines, 3 apple trees, a strawberry patch, and an asparagus patch. We harvested grapes off of those vines for almost 50 years to make jelly. I removed them this fall since I no longer live there and do not go over there often enough to keep them in harvesting order. Dorothy would make jelly using paraffin wax to seal them. We froze vegetables and fruit. We also went to Dorothy's parents home, Herbert Edgar and Dorothy (McDaniel) Newcomb, to get green beans and sweet corn. We would freeze them.

When we retired, we bought an acre and a half from Dorothy's cousin, Shirley. Billie and Shirley (West) Tippie owned 5 acres of land 5 miles west of Rich Hill, Missouri. We put a double-wide mobile home there in 1994 and lived there for 10 years. We had a large garden. We also had several apple, peach, cherry, pear, and plum trees. We had grape vines, black raspberry bushes, blueberry bushes, and thornless blackberry bushes. We got into canning in a big way. The canner we used was my mothers and probably her mothers, Laura (Mooney) Janssens. We did buy a pressure cooker to can beans. We canned tomatoes, tomato juice, vegetable juice, spaghetti sauce, salsa, lime pickles, bread and butter pickles, many types of jam, and many types of jelly.

When we moved back to Independence in 2004, we cut back on our canning. Then we moved to the retirement community of Foxwood Springs in Raymore, Missouri in 2008. A large garden area was available for those who wanted to garden. You paid dues for a section of about 1000 square feet. Several people would be out there where you visited with and learned new and better ways to handle certain crops. I usually got 2 sections for our spring crops, beans, tomatoes, peppers, sweet potatoes, and any other think that caught our fancy. We were back into canning. We also would go to the 80 acres from the farm in Bates County where Dorothy grew up. In the spring we would pick gooseberries and in the summer wild blackberries. In the fall we would pick wild plums. We enjoyed canning together. I told people that she was the “brains” and I was the “brawn”. Even this year after Dorothy's death in January, I have canned almost 300 jars of “goodies”.

We used the canned goods in our cooking. We also gave canned goods to our sons and their families. We also give them to neighbors, friends, the Foxwood Springs
Fall Festival, and the Raymore Christian Church Fall Yard Sale. I still enjoy doing the canning and hope that I can continue.

COMMUNITY GARDENING

Marjorie Slavens

In the previous article, President Al Morse discusses the history of gardening in his family from the time of his 3 great grandfather, Thomas Woodfin, to the present. As Al indicated, he continues to garden here at Foxwood Springs. Garden plots are available to residents for a minimal charge, which covers water and some equipment used by the gardeners. Bob Collins is the President of the Garden Club here, and Al is the Treasurer. Both are active gardeners, and there are 9-12 other residents who are active gardeners. Al is a regular host on our closed circuit TV channel, FSTV. He and Bob frequently present programs about the gardens and opportunities to participate in this organization for other residents.

For many years, Foxwood residents have participated in this program, and a program was produced for KCTV a number of years ago which featured our resident participation in gardening. Residents raise their produce for their own use, but they also contribute to Bill and Evelyn’s Table in the Community Building so residents who are no longer able to garden can obtain produce for their own use.

In addition, some of the gardeners maintain a section for flowers which are available for cutting by any residents for their personal use.

During our annual Fall Festival, residents have provided jams, jellies, canned vegetables and juice for sale to provide income for our Fellowship of John program, which assists our residents who have outlived their resources and need some financial assistance to continue to live at Foxwood Springs. We have not held this event this year, but some of our residents continue to create individual fund-raising activities to provide FOJ support. In April, we had a style show sponsored by the Thrift Shop in which residents presented clothing which had been donated for sale by the Thrift Shop.

In September, our Gift Shop raffled a quilt donated by Joanne Crandell, a friend of Foxwood, to raise additional FOJ funds.

Al Morse and Doris Conley, both of whom used to donate canned items for our Bake Shop for Fall Festival, are now donating these items for sale in the Thrift Shop on a regular basis.

On Friday, October 18, The Thrift Shop will sponsor a Jewelry sale here in the Foxwood Room. Mary Lou McClure and her volunteers have been preparing the donated jewelry for this sale throughout the year, just as they did when the Jewelry Shop was a part of the Fall Festival.

It is important for all of us to record our volunteer activities in our family histories. Al has discussed his family's gardening activities for their own benefit but also as a reflection of the spirit and concern of these people for sharing with their friends and neighbors in need.

FINDING YOUR ANCESTORS' STORIES FREE ONLINE, PART 2: READING AND SEARCHING INTERNET ARCHIVE EBOOKS

Julia Morse

In last month's newsletter, I discussed ways to search Internet Archive (Archive.org) to find old county histories and other digitized books from libraries across North America and beyond.

Once you find a book of interest in Archive.org, there are numerous ways you can read it or search through it for the information of most interest.

- You can read through the photographed pages in Internet Archive's book viewer, similar to reading a real paper book.
- Internet Archive can read aloud the photographed page to you with its built-in text-to-speech option.
- You may download an ePub or Kindle file to read the text version on your mobile eBook reader.
- You may download a PDF file of the book to save and view from your computer's PDF reader.
- Those with DAISY talking book equipment (for print-disabled users) can download a file for their equipment.
- You may navigate to a text-only version of the book, which has some advantages for fast searching and copying-and-pasting of text of interest for your own records. This may also have additional advantages for users with screen readers.

- How to find the view or file you want:
- If you searched for your book through Internet Archive's search box (see my Part 1 article in the September newsletter), when you click on the book of interest, it opens with the photographed page viewer in the main portion of your screen. You can work with the photo-view right there, or you can scroll down the screen below the photo-view to find file versions of the book that can be downloaded. If you want to go to the text-only view, the link is with the download files, labeled "FULL TEXT."

Note that if you found your Internet Archive book by searching with Google or some search engine other than Internet Archive, it may take you directly to the full-text view of the book instead of the main page that has both photo-view and file download options. If you find yourself on the text-only view and want to go back to the photo-and-downloads

area, just click on the title of the book at the top of the text viewer, where it says "Full text of [Book Title]." Or, clicking "See other formats" takes you to the same place.

Tips for using the photo-view of the book in Internet Archive's built-in book reader:

- You can enlarge the photo-page viewer to fill the whole screen. The button to click on is at lower right corner of the photo viewer—that is, on the bottom bar, far right icon-button.

You can flip through pages one page at a timeby clicking on the pages or using the arrows on the bar at the bottom of the viewer.

- **To move much later or earlier in the book, you can click on the lined gray areas at the sides that represent the pages later or earlier in the book—the same place you would place your finger to flip farther back in a real paper book. Alternatively, there is a horizontal scroll/tuner bar at the bottom of the viewer which you can click or drag to navigate through the book.**
- **You can zoom in for a closer view with the +/- magnification buttons on the bottom bar, far right. Once magnified, you can move the view around by hovering the mouse over the book area, then click-hold and drag.**
- **The "read aloud" button looks like a speaker symbol (sadly identical to a volume symbol). It is on the bar at the bottom of the viewer, far right, fourth button from the right.**

How to search for key terms inside your book while in the photo-viewer:
There is a "search inside" box in the upper right area of the viewer. (Warning: There may also be another search box above it that is for all of Internet Archive, not just this book. Make sure it says "search inside.") Enter here the search word or words you are looking for in the book, such as your family name. (This search is often very slow. Be patient waiting for results.) If your search word is found in the book, a blue locator symbol (an upside-down teardrop) will appear on the scrollbar below the book view. Hover the mouse over the blue locator to see a preview of the text that has your search term. You can click on the blue locator to flip to that page view. Your search term will be highlighted on that page.

If you find the "search inside" function too slow, you may prefer to use the full-text view instead, which I explain in this next section.

How to use the alternative full-text view of the book:

To navigate to plain-text view from the main photo-viewer page, scroll down below the photo view of the book to find the gray "Download Options" box. Within the list of various files that can be downloaded, there is usually a "FULL TEXT" option. Click on "FULL TEXT" and you will be taken to the full-text view.

The full-text view is usually OCR (optical character recognition) text. This means that it has been machine-converted from the photos of the book pages to text characters. There will often be errors in the conversion, resulting in odd strings of letters and characters, particularly at the beginning of the book. Just scroll down to see if you can find the expected words for the start of the book.

To search full-text view, use the "Find" function of your browser. This usually works by simultaneously pressing the keys "Ctrl" and "F" on your keyboard. This will bring up a search bar on your browser, usually at the top or bottom of the screen. It will say something like "Find on page:" and then give you a place to enter the search word you want. Type in your family name or other word of interest and press enter. Usually the view will advance to highlight the first place that word is found in the book. Look back at the search bar where you typed in your search word; there will usually be arrows you can press to advance the view to the next place where your word was found in the book. You can use the arrows to skip through the book to see all the occurrences of your name or word of interest.

Those who regularly use eBook readers or PDF viewers may find it more friendly to download the files to view in their own software. The eBook file versions are usually based on the OCR text and so are not perfectly formatted and will include OCR errors, but still often capture most of what you want. You or an assistant can always help you compare back to the original photo-view of the book, if needed.

MISSOURI PIONEERS

Marjorie Slavens

I received a note from MCG member Cam Barnds following the publication of the September newsletter. I had discussed my ancestors in Henry County, Missouri and the excellent work Linda Everhart has done as Coordinator of that county site. Cam is also a member of the SAR, and he is not able to attend our meetings now because his SAR Chapter also meets on the third Saturday of the month.

Cam said because of my Henry County ancestors that I discussed in that article, my ancestors should qualify for the "Missouri Pioneers". I had not thought about that designation for some time, but we registered some of our ancestors several years ago, probably around 2002.

About his Missouri Pioneer ancestors, Cam said, "My Wiliam F. Barnds was so Recognized, having mMoved to St. Charles In 1842 as a Child with His Dunlap grandparents and mother, Elizabeth. His father, Daniel Barnds, died in November, 1840 after William F. was born in 1840. Elizabeth later Married William K. Doughty of Virginia"

Cam said he has made some progress searching for Daniel Barnds in Pennsylvania but has not yet made some connections he would like to establish. William F. Barnds married in St. Charles County and later moved to Saline County, Missouri.

I looked at the Missouri Pioneers site, but it does not seem to be maintained. I remember registering some of our Missouri immigrants on this site, but it was about 16 years ago, and I do not remember how many were registered.

Last month, I discussed the family of John Slavens, my 3 great grandfather, who brought his family to Henry County in 1835, and his second son, George Washington. My great grandfather, John Reuben Slavens, took his family to California in 1887, but he died shortly after arriving, and his widow, Laura Hesler Slavens first returned to Henry County but then took her two sons, Howard and Frank to Kentucky, where she married her cousin, David William Hesler. Although most of the G. W. Slavens children remained in Henry County, my grandfather, Howard Slavens, did not return to Missouri to live, and we never met the rest of the G. W. Slavens line, although we found the records cited in the article last month.

The family of G. W. Slavens wife, Nancy Jane Parks, came originally from Virginia to Lincoln County, Kentucky, and by 1827 to Cooper County, Missouri and to Henry County, then Rives County, in 1835. Nancy's parents were William Parks (1809-1854), son of Peyton Parks and Rebecca Yantis, and Susan A. Parks (1812-1900), daughter of Reuben Parks and Nancy Lunsford.William and Susan were first cousins. They came to Cooper County, Missouri about 1827 and then to Henry County in 1835. Nancy, her parents and grandparents are buried in Parks Chapel Cemetery.

James McFarland was born in North Carolina and came to Cooper County, Missouri around 1820.He married Nancy Peters, and my great great grandmother, Susan Hill McFarland Hesler Parks (1846-1928), mother of my great grandmother, Laura Martin Hesler Slavens Hesler (1863-1946), was their eleventh child.

My mother's great grandmother, Derrinda Tefertiller (1841-1920), was the daughter of George and Emily Walker Tefertiller and was born in Perry County, Illinois. She married James Heape, and they accompanied her parents to Texas when the Civil War began. After the War, George and Emily moved with part of their family to live in Dade County Missouri. Derrinda and James moved to Kansas, and their daughter, Elzina (Ella) (1869-95),

married Charles Merlin Kerr (1863-1962) in 1886 and lived briefly in Jasper County Missouri before moving to Las Vegas, New Mexico, where she died in 1895. Charles Kerr moved to Missouri with his parents, John (1810-70)and Elizabeth Crawford Kerr (1829-1911) in 1865. With the exception of the 5 years he lived in New Mexico, Charles lived in Missouri until his death in 1962, but as a child and until 1886, he would have been considered a "Missouri Pioneer".

As I said in the article last month, our Eppright ancestors were certainly pioneers. Jacob Eppright (1783-1852) and his wife, Catharina Wolf (1786-1866) moved from Maryland to Tennessee and then to Johnson County, Missouri in 1840. Their son, Jonathan 1812-1885), moved from Maryland to Montgomery County, Indiana, where he married Edy Meadows (1823-1890?) . They moved to Jasper County Missouri in 1840. Their daughter, Catharine Mary Eppright, married Henry Welty, who came to Jasper County after the Civil War to teach in a rural school. Catharine, then 21, was one of his students because she could not attend school during the Civil War. They were married in 1870

I know we registered the Epprights and Henry Welty as "Missouri Pioneers", but I doubt that the rest of my long list for this article have been so registered yet.

MISSOURI STATEHOOD, 1821

In his recent letter about the Missouri Pioneers site, Cam Barnds also mentioned the 200th anniversary of the admission of the state of Missouri to the Union in 1821, a topic we will all be considering in the next two years. The admission of this state as a slave state is an extremely important date in U.S. history leading up to the Civil War.

The Year Was 1820
"The year was 1820 and in the U.S. James Monroe was president. He would be re-elected later that year, winning 231 electoral votes, to James Quincy Adams one electoral vote. The country was growing; the previous year, Missouri Territory had sought to become a state. With eleven free states and eleven slave states, the prospect drew heated debate.

The Missouri Compromise was reached and as part of the agreement, Maine, previously part of Massachusetts would become the 23rd state on 15 March 1820, and Missouri would be admitted as a slave state (21 August 1821), thereby maintaining the balance. In addition a line was drawn through the Louisiana Territory which would make future states north of the line in that territory free states, and future states in the territory south of the line, slave states. As evidenced by the need for a balance of free and slave states." ("Ancestry Weekly Journal", 22 October 2006)

Statehood and early politics
"In November 1818, the Missouri territorial legislature adopted a request for statehood, and it submitted the request to the U.S. Congress in December 1818. However, what would otherwise have been a routine admission became mired in a national controversy due to the delicate balance between slave and free states. The Missouri legislature had requested admission as a slave state, but antislavery members of Congress attached amendments to the legislation accepting Missouri as a state. In 1820, the Missouri Compromise cleared the way for Missouri's entry to the union as a slave state, along with Maine, a free state, to preserve the balance. Additionally, the Missouri Compromise stated that the remaining portion of the Louisiana Territory above the 36°30' line was to be free from slavery. This same year, the first Missouri constitution was adopted. The following year, 1821, Missouri was admitted as the 24th state, with the state capital temporarily located in Saint Charles until a permanent capital could be built. Missouri was the first state entirely west of the Mississippi River to be admitted to the Union". (www.wikipedia.org)

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